

The Cudahy Neighborhood Block Watch meets on the last Wednesday of every third month from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the basement at St. Luke's South Shore.

The Block Watch is a group of concerned citizens, who along with community leaders and the police department, share information and ideas to make their neighborhoods safer, more enjoyable places to live.

The block watch initially focused on central city streets such as Layton, Squire and Barnard Avenues. Meetings routinely drew 10-12 people with a police officer fielding questions and complaints from citizens. With the hard work and dedication of residents, the Neighborhood Block Watch now routinely attracts more than 40 people at meetings.

In addition to asking questions and bringing complaints to the police liaison, the block watch group has:

- toured the police department
- watched personal safety demonstrations
- held discussions with the Milwaukee County District Attorney and local elected officials
- discussed activities in the police department, crime trends in Cudahy and potential solutions.

The Neighborhood Block Watch has come a long way. It now uses e-mail to notify residents of crime in their city. The majority of members are on this e-mail list. The police department sends police activity reports to these members once a week, detailing the date, time, locations and nature of police calls.

Immediate "crime alerts" are sent to the Block Watch group when serious or dangerous incidents occur in Cudahy. These e-mails assist the police department by empowering neighbors with information so they may be more aware of their surroundings and more vigilant and alert to criminal activity.

For more information, contact Sergeant Chris Blunt of the Cudahy Police Department at 414-882-2405.